

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 00469 140306Z

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E.O. 11652 NA
TAGS: PINS JA NATO
SUBJ: TERRORISM: GOJ POLICE REPRESENTATIVE AT INTERPOL

REF: USNATO 0077

SUMMARY: GOJ POLICE WILL ASSIGN AN INSPECTOR TO INTERPOL AND STRENGTHEN ITS INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION STAFF IN TOKYO IN JFY 75 (BEGINNING APRIL 1975). WE BELIEVE THAT THESE MOVES WOULD SUBSTANTIALLY AID POLICE EFFORTS TO CONTROL TERRORISM AND OTHER STRICTLY CRIMINAL ACTIVITY BY JPANAESSE NATIONALS ABROAD, SUCH AS MEMBERS OF THE JAPANESE RED ARMY. END SUMMARY.

1. NATIONAL POLICE AGENCY (NPA) OFFICIALS HAVE CONFIRMED TO US RECENT PRESS REPORTS STATING THAT THE NPA WILL ASSIGN A PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO INTERPOL HEADQUARTERS IN PARIS, IN VIEW OF THE INCREASE IN CRIMES COMMITTED BY JAPANESE NATIONALS ABROAD. THE REPRESENTATIVE, WHO WILL BE OF INSPECTOR RANK, WILL GO TO PARIS ON A THREE-YEAR ASSIGNMENT SOMETIME DURING JFY 75. CANDIDATE HAS NOT YET BEEN NAMED. HIS MAIN DUTIES WILL BE TO MONITOR AND EXCHANGE INFORMATION THROUGH THE

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 00469 140306Z

INTERPOL NETWORK, AND ASSIST FOREIGN POLICE IN INVESTI-

GATING CRIMES INVOLVING JAPANESE NATIONALS.

2. NPA OFFICIALS SAID THE AGENCY WILL ALSO STRENGTHEN AND STREAMLINE ITS HEADQUARTERS STAFF FOR HANDLING CASES ABROAD AS WELL AS THOSE INVOLVING FOREIGN NATIONALS IN JAPAN. BEGINNING NEXT APRIL, NPA WILL ESTABLISH AN INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION SECTION, MADE UP OF ABOUT 20 MEN AND EMPOWERED TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH LOCAL POLICE AND INTERPOL INSTEAD OF WORKING THROUGH THE HIERARCHY OF THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION WITHIN NPA.

3. NPA OFFICIALS TOLD US THAT THE FOREGOING MOVES HAVE BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION FOR THREE YEARS AND ARE NOT TIED SOLELY TO CASES OF JAPANESE EXTREMIST ACTIVITY ABROAD. THEY CAUTIONED US THAT THE GOJ REPRESENTATIVE AT INTERPOL WILL, OF COURSE, INVOLVE HIMSELF ONLY IN STRICTLY "CRIMINAL" CASES UNDER TERMS OF GOJ LAW AND INTERPOL FRAMEWORK, AND WILL STEER CLEAR OF ANY "POLITICAL CRIME" CASES.

4. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT THE NEW SET-UP WILL GREATLY IMPROVE GOJ POLICE HANDLING OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY ABROAD, SUCH AS POSSIBLE TERRORIST ACTS BY MEMBERS OF THE JAPANESE RED ARMY IN THE NATO AREA. WE BELIEVE THAT THE GOJ REPRESENTATIVE AT INTERPOL WILL INVOLVE HIMSELF IMMEDIATELY IN CASES OF CRIMES BY JAPANESE NATIONALS SUCH AS HIJACKING, KIDNAPPING, EXTORTION, AND FORGERY OF CURRENCY AND PASSPORTS, BUT NOT REPEAT NOT IN CASES WHERE THE OFFENSES ISSUES SOLELY FROM THE EXERCISE OF FREEDOM OF SPEECH, PRESS, OR ASSEMBLY.
HODGSON

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